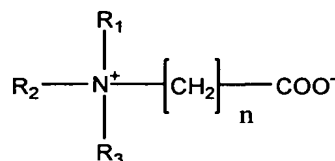


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A film-forming composition for topical application comprising
 - a. a film-forming polymer, and
 - b. a zwitterionic bulking agent having a molecular weight of from greater than 75 to less than 260.
2. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 comprising from about 3% to about 25% film-forming polymer.
3. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1, wherein the film-forming polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl alcohol/vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl pyrrolidone/vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl caprolactam and mixtures thereof.
4. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 3, wherein the film-forming polymer comprises polyvinyl alcohol.
5. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 wherein the low molecular weight zwitterionic bulking agent comprises a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the general formula (I) below:



wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are independently selected from -H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, and -CH₂CH(OH) R_4 , wherein R_4 is selected from -H, and C₁ to C₄ alkanes, and n is an integer from about 1 to about 3.

6. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 comprising from about 3% to about 30% zwitterionic bulking agent.
7. The film-forming composition according to claim 5 wherein the zwitterionic bulking agent is selected from the group consisting of trimethylglycine, proline, bicine, dimethylglycine and mixtures thereof.

8. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 further comprising a glassy material.
9. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 8 comprising from about 0.1% to about 15% glassy material.
10. The film-forming composition according to claim 8 wherein the glassy material comprises a low molecular weight, water-soluble material having a glass temperature (T_g) of greater than 62°C; maltodextrins having a molecular weight of from about 10,000 to about 70,000; and mixtures thereof.
11. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 10 wherein the low molecular weight, water-soluble material has a molecular weight of from about 342 to about 1000.
12. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 10 wherein the low molecular weight, water-soluble material is selected from the group consisting of raffinose, melezitose, isomalt, and mixtures thereof.
13. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 further comprising from about 0.1% to about 20% humectant.
14. The film forming composition for topical application according to claim 13 wherein the humectant is selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alcohol, amides, and mixtures thereof
15. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 14 wherein the polyhydric alcohol is glycerin.
16. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 14 wherein the amide is urea.
17. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 14 wherein the humectant comprises a mixture of glycerin and urea.

18. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 further comprising a skin care active selected from the group consisting of vitamin B₃ and derivatives, panthenol and its derivatives, retinoids, vitamin C and its derivatives, vitamin D and derivatives, vitamin E and its derivatives, amino acids, and mixtures thereof.
19. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 comprising less than about 30% ethanol.
20. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 comprising from about 0.1% to about 1% by weight of the composition of a 2 mm²/s silicone fluid.
21. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 comprising from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the composition of a particulate material.
22. The film forming composition according to claim 21 wherein the particulate material is selected from the group consisting of aluminium starch octenylsuccinate, microcrystalline cellulose, diatomaceous earth and mixtures thereof.
23. A kit comprising a film-forming composition according to claim 1 and at least one applicator.